

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 /052 W
-----009254 210817Z /10

R 210746Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0687

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 01938

USICA

FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: LETTER IN IRISH TIMES JUNE20, 1978

THE FOLLOWING LETTER APPEARED IN TODAY'S LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR, IRISH TIMES. THE LETTER IS SIGNED BY
12 IMPORTANT LEADERS ON THE POLITICAL, CULTURAL,
CIVIC AND INDUSTRIAL SCENE:
SIR, - WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WRITE ON BEHALF OF
ANATOLY SHARANSKY, WHO HAS BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO
AT LEFORTOVE PRISON IN THE USSR WITHOUT TRIAL SINCE
MARCH 15TH OF LAST YEAR.

THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHTS SUFFERED BY SHARANSKY; IN 1973 HE WAS
REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE ON THE UNSUBSTANTIATED
GROUNDS THAT HE HAD ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION'
THEN ON HIS WEDDING DAY IN 1974 THE KGB INFORMED HIS
WIFE, NATALIA, THAT SHE HAD BEEN GRANTED A VISA, BUT
THREATENED HER THAT IF SHE DID NOT LEAVE THE USSR
IMMEDIATELY, THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD NEVER RE-OCCUR.
THEY PROMISED HER HUSBAND WOULD FOLLOW IN THE NEAR
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FUTURE. AS A RESULT OF THIS THREAT SHE LEFT THE
USSR AND SINCE THEN ANATOLY AND NATALIA HAVE NOT
SEEN EACH OTHER. ALSO, FROM THAT MOMENT SHARANSKY
HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE
AND WAS SUBJECTED TO UNINTERRUPTED SURVEILLANCE BY
THE KGB.

NEVERTHELESS, IN MAY 1976, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS, SHARANSKY BEGAN A COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS BASKET OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. SHARANSKY HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT THIS MAIN AIM IS NOT TO ALTER SOVIET LAW BUT TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO BE REUNITED WITH HIS WIFE AS GUARANTEED BY THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. SINCE THE FORMATION OF THIS MONITORING COMMITTEE MOST OF ITS OTHER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN EITHER PLACED IN CUSTODY OR EXPELLED FROM THE USSR.

IN EARLY MARCH 1977 ARTICLES SUDDENLY BEGAN APPEARING IN THE OFFICIAL SOVIET PRESS STATING THAT SHARANSKY AND OTHERS WERE GUILTY OF TREASON AND WORKING FOR THE CIA, AN ACCUSATION PUBLICLY REFUTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. SUBSEQUENTLY SHARANSKY WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 15TH AND HAS BEEN HELD WITHOUT CHARGE FOR MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF NINE MONTHS PERMITTED UNDER SOVIET LAW. A LAWYER, DINA KANINSKAYA, AGREED TO REPRESENT SHARANSKY IN A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES REFUSED PERMISSION FOR HER TO ACCEPT THE CASE AND SHE WAS DEBARRED AND HAS SINCE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE USSR.

THE LATEST INFORMATION INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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FAMILY HAS SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A LAWYER AS REQUESTED BY THE AUTHORITIES, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAVE REFUSED TO RECOGNISE THIS PERSON AND HAVE INSISTED THAT A STATE-APPOINTED LAWYER MUST ACT INSTEAD. THROUGHOUT THE PAST MONTHS, IT APPEARS THAT THE KGB HAVE INTERROGATED AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE ALL OVER THE USSR, OF WHOM AT LEAST 80 PERCENT ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE ANY EVIDENCE CONCERNING SHARANSKY. DURING THE INTERROGATIONS THEY HAVE ASKED PEOPLE TO SIGN DOCUMENTS STATING THAT SHARANSKY IS EITHER MAD OR HAS WORKED FOR THE CIA.

WE APPEAL, THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF YOUR NEWSPAPER, TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN IRELAND, MR. KAPLIN, TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT OUR CONCERN THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL RIGHTS OF ANATOLY SHARANSKY TO A FAIR TRIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE USSR BE RESPECTED. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SIMILAR CONCERN WILL BE SHARED BY MANY OTHERS IN THIS COUNTRY. - SIGNED BY

1. RUAIRI QUINN, LABOR PARTY
2. ALBERT REYNOLDS, FIANNA FAIL PARTY
3. RICHIE RYAN, FINE GAEIL PARTY AND FORMER MINISTER
- FOR FINANCE
4. DONAL BARRINGTON, SENIOR COUNSEL
5. VICTOR E. BEWLEY, LEADING BUSINESSMAN
6. GAY BYRNE, ONE OF IRELAND'S FOREMOST BROADCASTERS
7. BUNNY CARR, BROADCASTER
8. HUGH LEONARD, PLAYWRIGHT

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TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0688

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9. RORY O'HANLON, ACADEMIC
 10. MICHAEL SCOTT, ONE OF IRELAND'S FOREMOST ARCHITECTS
 11. MICHAEL SMURFITT, LEADING BUSINESSMAN
 12. W. GALEN WESTON, LEADING BUSINESSMAN
- KRENE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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THE LETTER IS SIGNED BY
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